This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An epothilone compound of formula I,

OH R₁b R₁a/ O ΌH

in which

 R^4 means hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, aryl, C₇-C₂₀ aralkyl,

 R^5 means hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀ afkyl, aryl, C₇-C₂₀ aralkyl,

wherein, for R⁴ and R⁵, aryl is phenyl, naphthyl, furyl, thienyl, pyridyl, pyrazolyl, pyrimidinyl, oxazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, quinolyl, thiazolyl, which are optionally substituted in one or more places/by halogen, OH, O-alkyl, CO₂H, CO₂-alkyl, -NH₂, -NO₂, -N₃, -CN, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_1 - C_{20}' acyl and/or C_1 - C_{20} acyloxy groups, and wherein ring heteroatoms can be oxidized, and

wherein, for R^4 and R^5 , aralkyl is benzyl, phenylethyl, naphthylmethyl, naphthylethyl, furylmethyl, thienylethyl, or pyridylpropyl, which are optionally substituted in one or more places by halogen, OH,/O-alkyl, CO₂H, CO₂-alkyl, -NO₂, -N₃, -CN, C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, C₁-C₂₀ acyl and/or C₁-C₂₀ acyloxý groups,

R⁶, R⁷ each mean a hydrogen atom, <u>or together mean</u> an additional bond <u>to result in a</u>

<u>double bond on the ring between their two positions</u> or <u>together mean</u> an

oxygen atom <u>to provide an epoxide ring</u>,

R⁸ means a methyl group or hydrogen,

and at the same time, R^{1a} and R^{1b} together stand for a trimethylene group, R² stands for a phenyl or benzyl radical, and X stands for a 2-pyridyl, 2-methyl-4-thiazolyl or 2-methyl-4-oxazolyl radical or

at the same time R^{1a} and R^{1b} together stand for a trimethylene group, R^2 stands for a methyl, ethyl or propyl group and X stands for a 2-pyridyl, 2-methyl-4-thiazolyl or 2-methyl-4-oxazolyl radical or

at the same time R^{1a} and R^{1b} in each case stand for a methyl group, R^2 stands for a methyl, ethyl or propyl radical, and X stands for a 2-pyridyl, 2-methyl-4-thiazolyl or 2-methyl-4-oxazolyl radical,

whereby the nitrogen atom and/or the sulfur atom in X can be present in oxidized form, and whereby, if R² and R⁸ in each case mean a methyl radical, X can be only one 2-pyridyl radical that is optionally oxidized on the nitrogen atom, including all possible stereoisomers as well as their mixtures.

2. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which R⁸ is a hydrogen atom.

3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which R⁸ is a methyl group.

4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which R² is an ethyl group.

- 5. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which R² is a propyl group.
- 6. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 2, in which R^{1a} and R^{1b} together mean a trimethylene group.
- 7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 3, in which R^{1a} and R^{1b} together mean a trimethylene group.
- 8. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 6, in which X means a 2-pyridyl radical that is oxidized on the nitrogen atom.
- 9. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 7, in which X means a 2-pyridyl radical that is oxidized on the nitrogen atom.
- 10. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 2, in which X means a 2-pyridyl radical that is optionally oxidized on the nitrogen atom.

- 11. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 4, in which R^{1a} and R^{1b} together mean a trimethylene group.
- 12. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 5, in which R^{1a} and R^{1b} together mean a trimethylene group.
- 13. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 11, in which X means a 2-pyridyl radical that is optionally oxidized on the nitrogen atom.
- 14. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 12, in which X means a 2-pyridyl radical that is optionally oxidized on the nitrogen atom.
- 15. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 2, in which R² means an ethyl group, R^{1a} and R^{1b} together mean a trimethylene group and X means a 2-pyridyl radical that is optionally oxidized on the nitrogen atom.
- 16. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 2, in which R² means a propyl group, R^{1a} and R^{1b} together mean a trimethylene group, and X means a 2-pyridyl radical that is optionally oxidized on the nitrogen atom.
- 17. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 10, in which R² is a propyl group.

- (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which R⁵ 18. is a methyl group.
- 19. A compound according to claim 1, in which R^{la} (Previously presented) and R^{1b} in each case stand for a methyl group and R² stands for a methyl or propyl group.
- 20. (Previously presented) A compound of formula I, of claim 1, which is: (4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4/8-Dihydroxy-16-(2-(2-methyl-4thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S/16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(2-(2-methyl-4thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione, (1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(2-(2-methyl-4-

thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(2-(2-methyl-4thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11\$,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(2-(2-methyl-4thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione.

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,1 \(\frac{1}{2} \)S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(2-(2-methyl-4thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z)/16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-7,9,13-trimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-7,9,13-trimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,1[S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-9,13-dimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

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(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11 Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-(2pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-12,16-dimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-**7**11-Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-(2pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-12,16-dimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8 Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(2-(2-methyl-4thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-9,13-dimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6dione.

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(2-(2-methyl-4thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-12,16-dimethyl-4,17dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(2-(2-methyl-4thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-12,16-dimethyl-4,17dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16(S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R41S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(2-(2pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(2-(2pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or/Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-9,13-dimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dhydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-12,16-dimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1(R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7/11-Dihydroxy-10-ethyl-3-(2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-12,16-dimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13Z,16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-7-propyl-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-10-Propyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-N-oxidopyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S) 10-Propyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-N-

oxidopyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-10-Propyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-

pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-10-Propyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-

pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E)) 4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-7-propyl-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-10-Propyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-N-

oxidopyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16 tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-10-Propyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-N-

oxidopyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11\$,12S,16R)-10-Propyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-

pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo]14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione, or

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(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-10-Propyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicycle[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione.

- 21. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula I according to claim 1 above as well as a pharmaceutically compatible vehicle.
 - 22. (Canceled)
- 23. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical agent which comprises formulating a compound of formula I according to claim 1 in a form suitable for pharmaceutical administration.